

And did I again—should I mention the 20,000 labor jobs created by this pipeline, the fact that it doesn't impact the fragility, the ecosystem or environment of the sand hills and the aquifer?

Mr. Leader, bring this bill up in the Senate. Let's create these jobs, let's produce our infrastructure, and let's secure America's energy future.

HOMELESSNESS AMONG OUR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 4 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as we approach Veterans Day and we set aside time to recognize our Nation's veterans, also to address the problem of homelessness among those who have served our Nation.

Homelessness is a problem facing many Americans today, but it is particularly acute in the veteran community. While less than 10 percent of the population of the United States are veterans, they comprise 25 percent of the entire homeless population. All told, the Veterans Administration estimates that there are 107,000 homeless veterans nationwide. Among a population that have devoted themselves to the service of our Nation, these numbers are unacceptable.

The National Cemetery at Washington Crossing is located in my congressional district in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and serves as a final resting place for many veterans. The location of the National Cemetery is in the heart of Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District and places the plight of all veterans, homeless or not, preeminently in the collective psyche of my community.

Bucks County takes a solemn measure of pride in guarding both the mortal remains and the honor of veterans from across the Nation. And while Bucks County is honored and proud to provide a final resting place or final home to our Nation's veterans, our Nation must ensure all veterans are honored and sheltered while they are living as well. Today I would like to share one of their stories.

This past Flag Day, I was handed a pouch containing spent shell casings from a memorial service at the National Cemetery. The casings were from the service of U.S. Army Veteran John Griffin, who was buried at the National Cemetery at Washington Crossing earlier this year. John served our Nation in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970. He passed away in February of this year at a nursing home in Pennsylvania, and for some period before John entered the nursing home, he was homeless.

John's service was not attended by any relatives or friends. The National Cemetery holds monthly services for veterans who are laid to rest without the presence of their families. At this service, the flag that draped John's coffin was accepted by a group of women

from the community who have undertaken this role to provide a measure of respect and recognition to those who have passed.

Despite numerous inquiries, neither I nor my staff has been able to learn any more about the life, service, or death of John Griffin. We know that John was honorably discharged, but beyond that, his life and his service to our Nation have been lost for the next generation of soldiers who will serve.

In his second inaugural address, President Lincoln, looking at the wounds that needed to be healed as the Civil War drew to a close, charged our Nation "to care for him who shall have borne the battle." This we must do, but we must be ever mindful that homelessness, among veterans or among the population at large, is often a symptom of a deeper problem. Addiction, posttraumatic stress disorder, and strained family relations can collude to leave veterans without shelter. And while these factors may explain homelessness among veterans, they do not excuse us, as a Nation, from remedying it.

I do not know with any certainty what, if any, root causes led to John Griffin's homelessness, but I'm certain that our Nation owed him better. We owed him more than a makeshift camp in a local woods. We must rededicate ourselves to the service of those who have served our Nation.

The story of John Griffin is not rare, but we must work to make it so, because among the men and women who sacrificed and risked their lives in the service of our Nation, one homeless veteran is too many.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) for 2 minutes.

Mr. CASSIDY. Unemployment continues to hover over 9 percent. And when we say unemployment as 9 percent, that is a statistic. But we know that it's just not a statistic; it is a family. It is a family which is less able to provide, less able to have stability because of this unemployment rate.

Now, as it turns out, the unemployment rate is not generally distributed. It turns out it's principally among blue collar workers. Blue collar workers have traditionally been employed in manufacturing, construction, and mining. And this is one of the reasons why I, and many Republicans and many Democrats, so strongly support the Keystone XL project.

Think about it. Because they will extract that oil from the ground, creating jobs there, they are then going to build a pipeline, construction. And to build that pipeline, they have to manufacture steel. We're going to be creating jobs by this one project in the three areas that those who are now unemployed are principally employed in.

Now, this is not done with government subsidies. It does not put the tax-

payer at risk. Indeed, it will generate more tax, not by increasing rates, but by increasing income, more tax receipts to help lower our Nation's deficit.

I could go on about the increase in energy security, about how the oil sands actually have a better carbon footprint than some of the oil we are now importing from Venezuela. But the bottom line is we are in a recession of 9 percent. The President has the ability to create 20,000 jobs directly and 100,000 thereafter.

I think because of this and to show the kind of across-the-aisle support for this—this pipeline is supported by the Laborers International Union of North America, the Teamsters, the AFL-CIO, the Pipeline Contractors Association, and other major unions.

□ 1130

Mr. President, please create 20,000 jobs directly, 100,000 jobs indirectly, a total package, targeting those people who are most unemployed now without using a government subsidy and, in fact, by increasing government tax receipts and, in so doing, increase our energy security. Please approve the Keystone XL project.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pause in Your presence and ask guidance for the men and women of the people's House. Give them wisdom, strength, and love as they face the tasks of the waning weeks of the first session. Help them to be great in heart, genuine in commitment, generous in spirit, and good in mind that the work done may be for the highest welfare of our Nation and of all nations.

Whatever the experiences that come to them and to us all this day, grant that we may meet them with quick confidence and never-ending goodwill. Keep us ever faithful to our duties, committed to doing justice and truth, and loyal to our Nation in its lofty ideals.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.